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ABSTRACT

This report provides an evaluation of the efforts each state and the District of Columbia are making to provide nutritious summer meals to children of low-income families. The evolution of the Summer Food Service Program for Children (SFSP), created by Congress in 1968 to provide funds for eligible sponsoring organizations to serve meals to children from needy areas when school is closed, is described. Three tables provide state-by-state data on the average daily attendance (ADA) in July 1994 for SFSPs compared to National School Lunch Program participation in 1994, the growth in ADA from July 1993 to July 1994 for SFSPs, and the growth in the number of summer food sites from July 1993 to July 1994. The report also profiles four summer food service programs: (1) the Colleton County, South Carolina, SFSP; (2) the Hoquiam, Washington, Parks and Recreation SFSP; (3) the St. Thomas Child and Family Center SFSP in Great Falls, Montana; and (4) West Virginia's Energy Express SFSP. Data on reimbursement rates and eligibility guidelines is also included. (MDM)

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HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION

A Status Report on the

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Third Edition

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FOOD RESEARCH AND ACTION CENTER

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Third Edition

June 1995

FOOD RESEARCH AND ACTION CENTER

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June 1995

Dear Reader:

Welcome to the third annual status report on the Summer Food Service Program for Children (SFSP). This report commemorates the 20th anniversary of the summer food program, begun in 1975.

Produced by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), the report provides an evaluation of the efforts each state and the District of Columbia are making to provide nutritious summer meals to children of families with low incomes. This program is vital because when school is out, children do not have access to school lunches and breakfasts which provide at least one-third to one-half of the nutrients low-income children consume everyday. Hunger doesn't take a vacation. Children continue to learn during the summer, even if they are not in the classroom. Their nutritional status is affected as much by what they eat during the summer months as it is by what they consume during the school year. Clearly, without access to the summer food program, millions of children risk going without nutritious meals during the summer months.

One year ago, in July 1994, the average daily attendance in the summer food program was approximately 2.2 million children, compared to the 14 million children who received free or reduced-priced school lunches each day of the 1994 academic year. These children, from households with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty line, are the primary targets of the summer food program. Thus, 16 percent of this target population is being reached.

The summer feeding program reached its peak in 1976 when 3.5 million children received meals. Participation plummetted in 1982 to 1.4 million following passage of new SFSP legislation in 1981 which barred private non-profit organizations from participating as sponsors and established more restrictive program regulations. A renewed effort by anti-hunger advocates to encourage program sponsorship, coupled with the restoration of eligibility for non-profit organizations by Congress in 1989, has resulted in modest program growth in recent years.

While there have been participation increases over the last few years (an increase of 8.9 percent from 1990 to 1991, 5.7 percent from 1991 to 1992 and 11.6 percent from 1992 to 1993) there is still much work to be done to make the summer food program available to children who need it. From 1993 to 1994, there was a 4.7 percent increase in participation, less than recent years, but still significant in the total number of children being served daily, which increased by approximately 100,000.

About the Summer Food Service Program for Children

The Summer Food Service Program for Children was created by Congress in 1968. It is an entitlement program designed to provide funds for eligible sponsoring organizations to serve nutritious meals to children from needy areas when school is closed. No qualifying organization may be denied funding. Eligible sponsoring organizations include: (1) public or private nonprofit school food authorities, (2) units of local, municipal, county, tribal or state government, (3) residential camps or National Youth Sports Programs, and (4) private nonprofit organizations.

The summer food program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which provides money for state agencies to operate summer food at the state level and to reimburse eligible sponsors for meals served to children at local feeding sites. Eligible feeding sites are either "open sites," those ***located*** in areas where 50 percent or more of the children have families with incomes below 185 percent of poverty, or "enrolled sites," those in which 50 percent of the children ***attending*** the program have families with incomes under 185 percent of poverty.

Childhood Hunger and the link to cognitive development

Based upon estimates from the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP) in 1991, the most rigorous study of childhood hunger ever conducted in this country, several million children under 12 years of age are hungry at some point each month . Just as school lunch and school breakfast are important tools for alleviating hunger during the school year, summer food is an important tool for alleviating hunger during vacation time.

The need for children to have nutritious meals is not only important for their physical development, but for their mental development as well. The link between adequate nutrition and the ability to learn has been clearly established. Studies have demonstrated the positive impact of school meals on test scores, and on the incidence of tardiness and absenteeism among low-income students. Children on vacation should still be learning -- education and growth do not stop during the summer months. The Summer Food Service Program provides nutritious meals children need and, when coupled with recreation and tutoring programs, it offers a developmental program as well.

Since 1991, FRAC has been coordinating the nationwide **Campaign to End Childhood Hunger**. The Campaign is designed to alert the public and policymakers to the magnitude of the childhood hunger problem in this country and to work toward solutions. The Campaign includes anti-hunger advocates in every state and more than 100 national organizations. One of the Campaign's major goals is the expansion of the summer food program.

Partly as a result of the Campaign's efforts, on November 2,1994, President Clinton signed into law the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994 which reauthorized the child nutrition programs. This legislation contained improvements, expansions and policy changes in several child nutrition programs, including the summer feeding program. One of the most important provisions of the legislation permanently reauthorized start-up and expansion funds for the Summer Food Service Program. These funds provide for grants to schools and other sponsors who wish to initiate programs which will serve a significant number of low-income students, or wish to expand existing but underutilized programs.

Another provision of the legislation placed private non-profit sponsors who have demonstrated successful programs at the same priority level as other non-school sponsors with proven track records. This change provided a great boon to communities where private non-profit a sponsors represent the difference between kids being fed or not.

This summer, the fate of the child nutrition programs will once again be at stake. On March 24, 1995, the House of Representatives approved legislation as part of a welfare reform package that would eliminate all current national child nutrition programs and replace them with two " block grants" to states, with significant reductions in funding. If this bill were implemented as is, the Summer Food Service Program would be among the programs hardest hit, potentially leaving hundreds of thousands of children without meals when school is not in session. What the Senate and House ultimately decide to do this summer will determine the future of the program.

Millions of kids are hungry in America and summer food can make a difference. We ask you to join us in the nationwide effort to find more sponsors for the program, increase the number of feeding sites, and increase the number of children who are given the opportunity to feed their bodies and develop their minds through participation in the Summer Food Service Program.

Sincerely,

Food Research and Action Center

EXPLANATION OF THE NUMBERS USED IN THE STATUS REPORT

There are three sets of state-by-state data included in this report: (1) the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) in July 1994 for summer food compared to the National School Lunch Program participation in 1994; (2) the growth in Average Daily Attendance from July 1993 to July 1994 in summer food; and (3) the growth in the number of summer food sites from July 1993 to July 1994.

Summer Food Attendance Compared to School Lunch Attendance, 1994

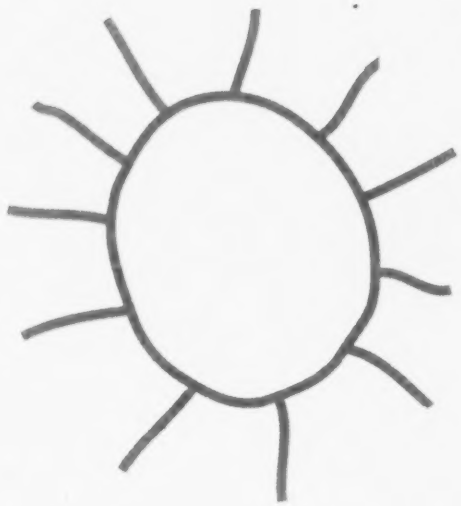
Children receiving free or reduced-priced meals at school are the primary target population for the Summer Food Service Program for Children. These children live in families with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty line. Studies show that these children receive one-third to one-half of the nutrients they consume each day from school lunch. Therefore, comparing summer food participation to school lunch participation provides a good measure for how successful summer food is in achieving its goal. In the summer of 1994, the number of children served daily by the summer food program represented approximately 16 percent of the children receiving free and reduced price lunches in 1994.

Growth in Summer Food Attendance, 1993-1994

The participation rate in summer food reached its high point in 1976 and declined through the late 1970s and the 1980s due to: a general decline in government interest in the summer food program, the removal of private non-profit organizations as sponsors, and the placing of other restrictions on the program. With some renewed interest in the program and the return of private, non-profit organizations in 1989, program participation has increased. Last summer, daily participation rose by approximately 4.7%, representing an increase of approximately 100,000 children.

Growth in Summer Food Sites, 1992-1993

Efforts to increase participation in summer food focus on two significant areas: outreach to the parents of low-income children regarding the availability of meals and the location of feeding sites; and recruitment of sponsors to operate sites or to expand the number of sites they currently operate. The number of sites nationally continues to grow each year. In 1994, there was a 7.9 percent increase, representing approximately 2,100 new sites.



Summer Food Attendance Compared to School Lunch Attendance, 1994

State	School Lunch Program (SLP) (free & reduced-price)	Summer Food Program (SFP)	SFP as percent of SLP
Alabama	308,387	44,338	14.4%
Alaska	27,065	348	1.3%
Arizona	245,729	33,234	13.5%
Arkansas	177,643	26,604	15.0%
California	1,737,822	148,271	8.5%
Colorado	142,024	16,339	11.5%
Connecticut	104,362	23,116	22.1%
Delaware	28,165	17,593	62.5%
D.C.	43,297	6,277	14.5%
Florida	773,453	200,781	26.0%
Georgia	480,667	81,856	17.0%
Hawaii	49,856	8,333	16.7%
Idaho	65,550	6,893	10.5%
Illiniois	576,456	87,694	15.2%
Indiana	209,782	14,378	6.9%
Iowa	116,829	7,360	6.3%
Kansas	118,712	7,636	6.4%
Kentucky	260,762	28,072	10.8%
Louisiana	428,986	65,693	15.3%
Maine	51,226	4,284	8.4%
Maryland	188,584	33,235	17.6%
Massachusetts	204,897	28,139	13.7%
Michigan	355,296	45,356	12.8%
Minnesota	182,517	15,800	8.7%
Mississippi	286,859	42,610	14.9%
Missouri	249,142	20,186	8.1%
Montana	40,871	3,853	9.4%
Nebraska	75,137	6,154	8.2%
Nevada	48,375	1,057	8.1%
New Hampshire	28,052	2,720	9.78%
New Jersey	263,972	72,000	27.3%
New Mexico	133,768	39,451	29.5%
New York	1,033,214	390,096	37.8%
North Carolina	379,124	45,851	12.1%
North Dakota	30,206	2,375	7.9%
Ohio	438,717	40,094	9.1%
Oklahoma	210,305	15,979	7.6%
Oregon	127,229	12,463	9.8%
Pennsylvania	430,273	100,504	23.4%
Rhode Island	36,663	9,196	25.1%
South Carolina	261,523	68,509	26.2%
South Dakota	46,144	5,780	12.5%
Tennessee	286,135	32,499	11.4%
Texas	1,370,621	161,925	11.8%
Utah	102,918	20,413	19.8%
Vermont	21,064	2,122	10.1%
Virginia	256,032	36,739	14.3%
Washington	217,262	23,842	11.0%
West Virginia	111,302	16,434	14.8%
Wisconsin	186,489	19,469	10.4%
Wyoming	22,879	459	2.0%
National	**14,012,838**	**2,242,780**	**16.0%**

Note: The national figure includes U.S. territories and, therefore, does **not** equal the total of state figures listed here.

Growth in Summer Food Attendance, 1993-1994

State	1993 ADA	1994 ADA	Percent Growth
Alabama	58,115	44,338	-23.7%
Alaska	348	348	0.0%
Arizona	25,635	33,234	29.6%
Arkansas	19,163	26,604	38.8%
California	137,523	148,271	7.8%
Colorado	15,279	16,339	6.9%
Connecticut	20,750	23,116	11.4%
Delaware	17,206	17,593	2.2%
D.C.	5,855	6,277	7.2%
Florida	197,555	200,781	1.6%
Georgia	92,214	81,856	-11.2%
Hawaii	3,884	8,333	114.5%
Idaho	4,200	6,893	64.1%
Illiniois	71,861	87,694	22.0%
Indiana	15,723	14,378	-8.6%
Iowa	6,887	7,360	6.9%
Kansas	7,691	7,636	-0.7%
Kentucky	23,935	28,072	17.3%
Louisiana	57,383	65,693	14.5%
Maine	3,352	4,284	27.8%
Maryland	30,070	33,235	10.5%
Massachusetts	25,3707	28,139	10.9%
Michigan	51,145	45,356	-11.3%
Minnesota	15,767	15,800	0.2%
Mississippi	42,923	42,610	-0.7%
Missouri	24,913	20,186	-19.0%
Montana	3,686	3,853	4.5%
Nebraska	7,083	6,154	-13.1%
Nevada	2,832	3,911	38.1%
New Hampshire	2,436	2,720	11.7%
New Jersey	66,208	72,000	8.7%
New Mexico	55,757	39,451	-29.2%
New York	380,402	390,096	2.5%
North Carolina	44,153	45,851	3.8%
North Dakota	2,896	2,375	-18.0%
Ohio	37,091	40,094	8.1%
Oklahoma	9,280	15,979	72.2%
Oregon	9,973	12,463	25.0%
Pennsylvania	104,566	100,504	-3.9%
Rhode Island	9,313	9,196	-1.3%
South Carolina	69,323	68,509	-1.2%
South Dakota	5,419	5,780	6.7%
Tennessee	30,586	32,499	6.3%
Texas	121,482	161,925	33.3%
Utah	17,876	20,413	14.2%
Vermont	2,364	2,122	-10.2%
Virginia	37,404	36,739	-1.8%
Washington	20,799	23,842	14.6%
West Virginia	10,192	16,434	61.2%
Wisconsin	18,452	19,469	5.5%
Wyoming	727	459	-36.9%
National	**2,141,352**	**2,242,780**	**4.7%**

Note: Participation figures were collected by USDA based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) in July (in August for Alaska) and confirmed by the state administering agencies. All numbers are preliminary and minor changes may be expected in final tabulations. In addition, the national figure includes U.S. territories and, therefore does **not** equal the total of state figures listed here.

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Growth in Summer Food Sites, 1993-1994

State	1993 Sites	1994 Sites	Percent Growth
Alabama	696	639	-8.2%
Alaska	4	4	0.0%
Arizona	370	432	16.8%
Arkansas	186	286	53.8%
California	1,512	1,648	9.0%
Colorado	145	143	-1.4%
Connecticut	252	295	17.1%
Delaware	319	345	8.2%
D.C.	39	43	10.3%
Florida	1,767	2,007	13.6%
Georgia	1,301	1,517	16.6%
Hawaii	36	43	19.4%
Idaho	75	99	32.0%
Illiniois	1,302	1,445	11.0%
Indiana	222	239	7.7%
Iowa	104	104	0.0%
Kansas	93	91	-2.2%
Kentucky	359	370	3.1%
Louisiana	374	457	22.2%
Maine	59	90	52.5%
Maryland	561	623	11.1%
Massachusetts	424	487	14.9%
Michigan	1,008	897	-11.0%
Minnesota	294	308	4.8%
Mississippi	271	256	-5.5%
Missouri	379	494	30.3%
Montana	46	51	10.9%
Nebraska	91	48	-47.3%
Nevada	57	91	5.9%
New Hampshire	50	50	0.0%
New Jersey	1,125	1,102	-2.0%
New Mexico	604	704	16.6%
New York	2,416	2,653	9.8%
North Carolina	596	600	0.7%
North Dakota	21	17	-19.0%
Ohio	626	714	14.1%
Oklahoma	195	184	-5.6%
Oregon	160	171	6.9%
Pennsylvania	1,953	2,213	13.3%
Rhode Island	178	188	5.6%
South Carolina	1,220	1,184	-3.0%
South Dakota	96	100	4.2%
Tennessee	566	635	12.2%
Texas	1,309	1,341	2.4%
Utah	118	137	16.1%
Vermont	42	68	61.9%
Virginia	550	552	0.4%
Washington	403	464	15.1%
West Virginia	333	412	23.7%
Wisconsin	251	257	2.4%
Wyoming	17	7	-58.8%
National	**26,340**	**28,439**	**7.9%**

Note: Participation figures were collected by USDA based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) in July (in August for Alaska) and confirmed by the state administering agencies. All numbers are preliminary and minor changes may be expected in final tabulations. In addition, the national figure includes U.S. territories and, therefore, does not equal the total of state figures listed here.

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BUILDING BLOCKS AT WORK: SELECTED STATE PROFILES

The most effective way to increase the availability of summer food to children who need it is to 1) educate communities about the benefits of the Summer Food Service Program; 2) inform communities about the times, location and duration of the Summer Food Service Program once it is established; and 3) make the Summer Food Service Program attractive to children. The most successful summer food programs are those that take full advantage of the opportunity to educate children as well as feed them. These programs become "building blocks" for both the growth *and* development of children. These "building blocks" programs are designed to provide children with comprehensive and integrated services that meet the needs of the whole child. Building Blocks programs share some common characteristics:

- The meals are provided by resources made available through the USDA's child nutrition programs for example, one is the Summer Food Service Program.
- Activities such as tutoring, mentoring, athletics, arts and crafts, nutrition education, health maintenance, and reading are organized around the summer food meals.
- All activities and meals are supervised by qualified staff members and operated in a safe, clean and well-maintained environment.
- The program is run in collaboration with organizations such as fire and police departments, departments of education and housing, departments of parks and recreation, churches, extension services, and libraries in a manner that provides shared resources and funding.

The following Summer Food Service Programs are model summer food *Building Blocks* programs that match these characteristics. They show how much summer food programs can do for children when they are used as building blocks for organized and supervised activities. Each state or locale has responded to the needs of its children and youth by tailoring summer activities that capture a child's attention for the summer months.

All four sites have organized their programs and services in conjunction with the service of the meal provided by the SFSP, using it as a magnet to attract children, a learning experience, and fuel for learning and growing during the summer months. Each program illustrates collaborative efforts that have procured shared resources and funding that promotes a sense of community involvement in the empowerment of children.

The following four model sites provide children with a broad range of services and activities while serving nutritious meals. In order to increase the number of children served by the SFSP, these model programs have formed partnerships with other community organizations that offer increased and diverse resources and funding for the Summer Food Building Blocks programs.

For example, Colleton County, South Carolina has teamed up with fire and police departments, extension services, libraries, and the department of education. Great Falls, Montana fostered a solid partnership with the local churches, housing authorities, and recreation departments. A rural site in Washington state has met the needs of its children during the summer months by sharing resources with Police and Fire Associations, and Service Corps Volunteers. In West Virginia, the Parks and Recreation Department has sponsored several Summer Food Service Programs for Children. Additionally, the four sites profiled were chosen because they can be easily replicated in other communities.

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COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

In Colleton County, South Carolina, local fire departments, police departments, libraries, and the extension services have collaborated with the County Office of Summer Food Service to provide low income children with a summer program of meals (through the Summer Food Service Program), arts and crafts, reading, nutrition education, competitive sports, safety education and drug prevention.

Approximately 90 percent of the children of Colleton County come from low income families. The focus of the summer food program in Colleton County is to provide the children with nutritious meals and the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of educational and social activities.

There are a broad range of activities for the children in Colleton County to participate in at Summer Food Service Program sites. The county library provides books for children at various sites. There are organized athletic events, local fire department site visits for safety education, police department site visits that focus on drug prevention and awareness, and arts and crafts sessions offered through collaboration with the Clemson Extension Service. At the end of the summer, participants are honored for their commitment and involvement in the program.

Because of the enormously positive impact the programs have had on the children who participate, Mamie Lynam, Summer Food Coordinator, has increased the number of program sites and sponsors each year for the past five years. Colleton County currently serves 3,000 children daily. This community has also witnessed an unexpected side-benefit of the summer program: a decrease of trouble caused by children in the community during the summer months.

Ms. Lynam says " In this community, if the children had no summer food program, they would not eat. The summer food program helps families stretch to meet the nutritional needs of their children during the months when they are not in school. The supervised activity keeps the kids safe, out of trouble and provides them with a sense of fellowship with the other kids."

Local police officials are devoted to the program and, when asked about the impact of the programs on the community, they say that they only wish they had the resources to reach more of the children at all the summer food program sites. Local ministers say that they have "devoted their every breath" to the continued success and expansion of these programs for children because of the positive impacts on children that they have observed.

For more information, contact :
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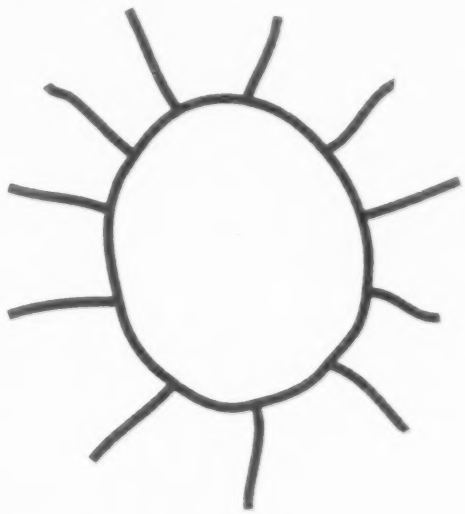

HOQUIAM PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Parks and Recreation Board of Hoquiam, Washington, along with the school district, police and fire associations, Washington Service Corps, and a variety of civic clubs work together to provide a summer recreation and feeding program for the children of their community. The recreation program has grown out of Hoquiam's concern for its children and families. Hoquiam has an above average unemployment rate and over 50 percent of its elementary students are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. In this community the Summer Food Service Program has become the foundation of summer activity for the children.

The Summer Feeding and Recreation Program, now in its third year, has continued its growth and quality in 1994. The program served an average of 229 free lunches daily, an increase of 120 percent over the amount served in 1993. Kristi Earley, Program Director, feels that the meal served is the foundation for the program and the component that draws such a high daily attendance.

The program delivers lunches and provides four hours of supervised activities at two public sites Monday through Friday for ten weeks in the summer. The Recreation Department also provides nutrition education for children and families, a part of the program that Hoquiam regards as of equal importance for the children and families as the lunches served. According to one 10 year old participant in the summer program, the nutrition and cooking classes were very important to her because she learned how to prepare the staple foods given out at the local food bank.

This program has not only been beneficial to children and their families, but to the community at large. According to one Police Sergeant in Hoquiam, some children get so hungry that they may steal food so they can eat. The summer food program has not only given children food, but a safe place to go where people care about their well being and become positive role models for those children.

A nutritionist for the Washington State University Cooperative Extension feels the summer program is essential to the children of Hoquiam because the feeding sites are a safe place for children to get the only meal they may have all day. She says, "Without food, these children will not reach their potential of being happy, productive citizens."

Hoquiam's program is funded, in part, by the USDA's Summer Food Service Program. According to Kristi, Program Director, this summer feeding program could not exist without federal funding and the quality of the program would not be at the level it is without the nutritional guidelines set by the Summer Food Service Program.

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Telephone (206) 533-3447.

ST. THOMAS CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

In Great Falls, Montana, a collaborative effort among the Park North Recreation Department, the Housing Authority, local churches, the Department of Education, and Summer Food Service Coordinators has provided the area's children with a summer recreation program that enriches their lives while responding to community concerns about unsupervised youth during the summer months.

In 1990, the St. Thomas Child and Family Center first organized a summer recreation program. Ever since, it has been providing breakfast and lunch to youth in conjunction with organized reading, skills development, athletic activities, and arts and crafts opportunities.

The program is organized so that each member of the community plays an integral role in the administration of the summer food program. Local churches provide the kitchen for the food preparation, the school board sponsors the reading portion of the program and provides the staff for meal service. St. Thomas' has also received the Community Development Block Grant that provides the van used for transportation of children and meals.

These collaborative efforts of community organizations allow the additional resources and funding needed for making summer feeding sites more comprehensive service programs for children. For example, the children in Great Falls now benefit from a summer reading program developed by the school district and teachers. As a result, chidren stay linked to educational activities year round. The magnet that attracts the students to the program is the meal offered through the SFSP.

One of the summer food program sites is located in a subsidized housing complex where a police officer is always present. According to the police officer on duty, the summer food program and the educational and recreational activities built around it keep the children both well nourished and engaged in positive, safe and supervised activity. According to local authorities, the incidence of young children getting into trouble during the summer months has decreased since the inception of the St. Thomas Child and Family Summer Feeding Programs. Debbie Parchen, Summer Program Coordinator, says "Its hard to know whether it was the meal provided by the Summer Food Program or the organized activities that excited the children, but I certainly know neither program would be as successful if operated independently."

For more information, contact:
Debbie Parchen
416 23 rd Street North
Great Falls, MT 59401.
Telephone (406) 761-6538.

WEST VIRGINIA'S "ENERGY EXPRESS" SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

West Virginia's *Energy Express* is an innovative program designed to provide children the opportunity to eat nutritious meals and be supervised in educational activity throughout the summer months. *Energy Express* was developed out of growing concern that children will lose ground "nutritionally, developmentally, and educationally" during the summer. Consequently, it was thought that these were likely to be the same children that would be at a disadvantage when they returned to school in the fall.

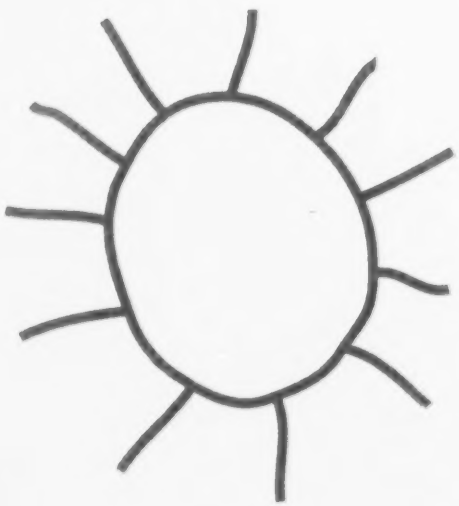
Energy Express began as a demonstration project in two rural areas of West Virginia. Both areas exhibited a high percentage of children and families in need. The goal of the program is to maintain the nutritional and educational status of children in the summer months. To achieve the desired goal, a variety of reading and writing programs are organized in conjunction with the service of a nutritious meal.

This program is run for six weeks and combines "food, learning and fun". Children receive breakfast and lunch and participate in a two hour tutoring program that focuses on teaching and reinforcing reading skills. The reading program is supervised by volunteer college students. Parents and other community members are involved with the administration of the program in a variety of different ways. The benefits and impact of such a comprehensive program are currently being evaluated.

The collaborative efforts of area college students, West Virginia Department of Education, West Virginia University, Extension Service, West Virginia Coalition on Food and Nutrition and local county boards of education made this highly successful and unique Summer Food Service Program a great success.

Energy Express enjoyed such great success in 1994, that it will replicated in approximately 30 sites in the summer of 1995. *Energy Express* will continue to address the nutritional and educational needs of over 1,500 children.

For more information, contact:
Gloria Cunningham
West Virginia Department of Education
Building 6, Room 248,
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East Charleston
West Virginia 25305-0330.
Telephone (304) 558-2708



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR 1994

State agencies receive funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from which they reimburse sponsors for eligible meals served through the Summer Food Service Program for Children. Meals are reimbursed on either a per-meal basis or for the actual cost of running the program, whichever is less.

Sponsors may be reimbursed for lunch and either breakfast or a snack each day. Camps may be reimbursed for up to four meals per day.

The per-meal reimbursement rate is divided into administrative and operating costs. Administrative costs are those incurred in the management of summer food, such as office expenses, administrative salaries, insurance, and some financial management costs. Operating costs are those incurred in the preparation and distribution of the food, provision of transportation in rural areas, and program activities and salary for staff supervising the children.

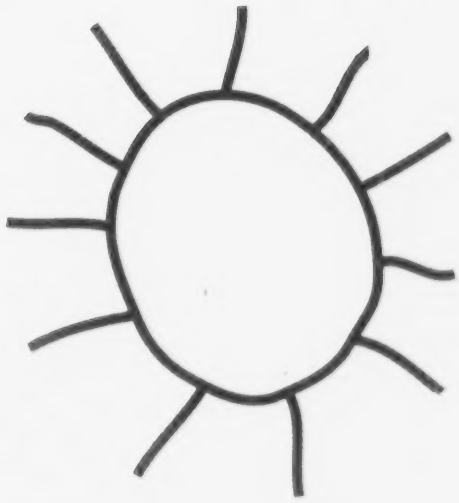
The SFSP has two different levels of administrative reimbursement rates. The higher reimbursement rates are for sponsors of sites that prepare or assemble their own meals and for sponsors of sites located in rural areas. The lower rate is for all other sponsors.

The state can deny reimbursement for any number of meals served if there are program violations.

SFSP REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR 1995

	Operating	Administrative Urban/Vended	Administrative Rural/Self Prep
Breakfast	$ 1.1800	$ 0.0875	$ 0.1100
Lunch/Supper	$ 2.1200	$ 0.1675	$ 0.2000
(Snack)	$ 0.5550	$ 0.0425	$ 0.0550

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES



Children from low-income families are the target population for the Summer Food Service Program for Children. If over 50 percent of the children in the geographic area in which the feeding site is located are eligible for free or reduced priced school meals (those children from families with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty line) a sponsor may operate an "open site" summer food program. The sponsor of an "open site" program maybe reimbursed for all eligible meals served regardless of the income of each individual child.

Other sponsors operate "enrolled site" summer food programs. In an enrolled site, the sponsor must document that 50 percent of the children enrolled and attending the feeding site live in families with incomes under 185 percent of poverty. The sponsor may be reimbursed for all eligible meals served to children in an enrolled site.

1995 Summer Food Service Program Family Size and Income Guidelines

Households with income less than or equal to the below are eligible for free meal benefits.

Household Size	Year	Month	Week
1	$13,616	1,135	262
2	$18,204	1,517	351
3	$22,792	1,900	439
4	$27,380	2,282	527
5	$31,968	2,664	615
6	$36,556	3,047	703
7	$41,144	3,429	792
8	$45,732	3,811	880
Each additional household member add:	$4,588	383	89

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ABOUT FRAC

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is widely regarded as the leading national organization working for more effective public policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition.

FRAC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established in 1970. In close partnership with a nationwide network of anti-hunger organizations, FRAC launched the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger in 1991. The Campaign is dedicated to the elimination of childhood hunger through the promotion of the federal food programs and by addressing the root causes of hunger in the United States.

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Millions of kids are hungry in America.
Campaign to End Childhood Hunger

Working in Partnership with

Coalition for America's Children

Who's for Kids and Whos Just Kidding™

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